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Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests

Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report consolidates and summarizes information submitted by 81 Member States for the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, which is the highest number of reports ever presented to the Forum, on actions taken and progress made towards implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the four global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The report is submitted pursuant to resolution 7/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular paragraph 1 (c) of the annex thereto.

* E/CN.18/2015/1.

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I. Introduction

1. In December 2007, in its resolution 62/98, the General Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as contained in the annex to that resolution, with the purpose of:

(a) Strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests;

(b) Enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Providing a framework for national action and international cooperation.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 7/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular paragraph 1 (c) of the annex thereto (see E/2007/42-E/CN.18/2007/8, chap. I, sect. C), according to which the Forum shall hold a discussion at each session on the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Moreover, according to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-15 adopted by the Forum in its resolution 7/1, the eleventh session of the Forum will review progress towards the achievement of the global objectives and the implementation of the instrument, and review the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. The report draws on information from 81 country reports submitted for the eleventh session of the Forum, the country reports submitted for previous sessions of the Forum, since 2008 (see annex), the views and proposals submitted on the review of the international arrangement on forests, the report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement,[1] the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010 and the *State of the World's Forests 2014*, both of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other publications, including the Status of Tropical Forest Management 2011 prepared by the International Tropical Timber Organization. At the time of writing of the present report, the data for the 2015 edition of the Global Forest Resources Assessment were still in the process of analysis and therefore were not available for inclusion in the report.

4. The national reports provide a wealth of information on activities, challenges and success stories and on action taken by countries to achieve sustainable forest management. The secretariat of the Forum will prepare a background document on the implementation of the instrument and progress towards achieving the global objectives on forests and the Millennium Development Goals, which will provide additional examples of action reported by countries.[2]

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[1] Available from www.un.org/esa/forests/iaf-assessment.html.

[2] In order to comply with General Assembly resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation prepared by the Secretariat and the guidelines of the Secretary-General for reports drafted and/or compiled by the Secretariat, the information received from Governments has not been reproduced in the present report, as this would have exceeded the acceptable page limit.

5. The recommendations and key action points from the present report are taken into account in the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options (E/CN.18/2015/2), for the consideration of the Forum in its decision on the future of the international arrangement on forests.

II. Reports submitted for the previous sessions of the Forum

6. The first call for national reports on progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its global objectives on forests produced limited results, with only 21 countries submitting national reports for the eighth session of the Forum. This reflected the fact that countries had limited opportunities to initiate new actions owing to the short time that had elapsed since the adoption of the instrument. Similarly, only 22 countries provided national reports for the ninth session of the Forum.

7. The small number of national reports provided for the eighth and ninth sessions of the Forum provided a limited view of overall progress and achievements at the global level. Nevertheless, it should be noted that most countries that provided reports generally felt positive about their actions in support of the instrument and the attainment of its objectives.

8. At its ninth session, the Forum requested the secretariat to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, for reporting to the Forum at its tenth session. The Forum also invited Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership to initiate and support pilot projects on implementation of the instrument. Accordingly, a streamlined reporting format[3] was developed, following extensive consultations, including with 136 national and international experts from 78 countries and through five regional capacity-building workshops jointly organized by the secretariat of the Forum and the Forestry Department of FAO. Moreover, FAO, in cooperation with the Governments of Germany and Japan, supported a number of pilot projects on the implementation of the instrument, including in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines. In addition, seven countries (Gabon, India, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe) were supported in efforts on awareness-raising, stocktaking, priority-setting and reporting.

9. Such measures and awareness-raising actions created further interest among countries, and a total of 57 reports were submitted for the tenth session of the Forum. Countries provided valuable information on how, and the extent to which, they had implemented policies and measures contained in the instrument. This largely qualitative information submitted by countries was supported with quantitative data from the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010, prepared by FAO.

[3] For further information, see www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/unff10_reporting_template_final_web.pdf.

III. Progress towards implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests

A. Creating an enabling environment and strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management

10. National reports submitted since 2008 have demonstrated an increase in activities and actions, at both the national and international levels, to implement sustainable forest management. The non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests provides a valuable framework for national forest-related actions and many countries have taken this into account when designing their national forests policies and legislation. In particular, the supporting role of the instrument was highlighted by developing countries, many of which have introduced new forest-related policy measures since 2007. Meanwhile, developed countries typically reported on amendments to existing, long-established measures aimed at securing sustainable forest management.

11. In its article 6, the instrument calls upon countries to develop, implement and update national forest programmes or other strategies for sustainable forest management and to identify actions and measures, policies or specific goals. Of 81 countries reporting to the Forum for its eleventh session, 63 had introduced new forest legislation or amended existing forest legislation, 66 had introduced a new forest policy or amended existing forest policy, 50 had introduced a new national forest programme or amended an existing one, 32 had undertaken action relating to forest land tenure and 30 had undertaken other measures.

12. The benefits of public participation and cross-sectoral coordination in sustainable forest management are also recognized in article 6. Nearly all responding countries confirmed taking measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests. In general, this cooperation was more often deemed effective with departments and/or ministries responsible for agriculture and/or rural development, climate change and environment, but less often deemed effective in relation to departments and/or ministries responsible for energy, tourism or mining. Countries also highlighted the importance of coordination with departments and/or ministries responsible for economic planning, finance, trade and industry, as well as regional development, community affairs and indigenous peoples. Coordination mechanisms include interministerial committees, commissions and memorandums of understanding between departments and/or ministries.

13. In most countries, established round tables and/or committees meet on a regular basis (in 43 of 76 countries) and forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an ad hoc basis as issues affecting them arise (in 64 of 78 countries). While mechanisms for promoting consensus with forest workers (in 39 of 56 countries), indigenous communities (in 20 of 32 countries), non-governmental organizations (in 36 of 63 countries) and local communities (in 36 of 67 countries) were considered effective by the majority of countries, fewer than half said that measures relating to the private sector (in 29 of 61 countries) or the general public (in 17 of 56 countries) were effective, although nearly all countries did regard these measures as at least

partially effective. Countries provided many examples of the increase in public awareness of the benefits provided by forests.

14. Two thirds of countries reported inclusion of forests and/or sustainable forest management in national development plans and/or strategies. Additionally, 15 countries reported on other steps taken to raise the importance of forests and sustainable forest management, including climate change-related policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus) and national adaptation programmes of action, national biodiversity strategies, policies for protected areas, community forestry and participatory forest management programmes, poverty reduction strategy papers, economic development programmes, agroforestry and related food production programmes, policies for combating desertification and watershed management plans. Most countries also reported an increased awareness of the importance of forests and/or sustainable forest management to both sustainable development (in 64 countries) and poverty eradication (in 46 countries). Approximately half of reporting countries said that more domestic public resources are devoted to activities relating to sustainable forest management (39 countries) and about one third said that more official development assistance had been programmed to such activities (25 countries).

15. A total of 69 countries reported on steps taken since 2007 to prevent and reduce international trafficking of illegally harvested forest products. Frequently reported measures were improved enforcement of existing legislation (in 57 countries), export controls (in 49 countries), import controls (in 44 countries), new legislation (in 41 countries) and bilateral agreements between exporting and importing countries (in 22 countries); in addition, 24 countries reported on other actions, such as those relating to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. States members of the European Union (and Norway) reported on actions to implement the European Union timber regulation, which prohibits operators from placing illegally harvested timber and products derived from illegal timber on the market in their countries; voluntary partnership agreements are another element of the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan. The Congo, Ghana and Liberia reported that they had entered into voluntary partnership agreements with the European Union, while Côte d'Ivoire and Viet Nam reported ongoing negotiations with the European Union about a voluntary partnership agreement. The United States of America has intensified efforts to combat forest-related crime domestically, with a focus on cooperative efforts to implement the amended Lacey Act (2008). Since 2007, the United States Agency for International Development has allocated around $125 million to combat wildlife trafficking.

16. Several timber-exporting countries have introduced bans on the logging of particular species of trees (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Madagascar) and bans on the export of charcoal (e.g., from Jamaica, Kenya and Nigeria). Countries also reported on bilateral and multilateral programmes, including the role of international organizations (such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) as well as partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors. Other multilateral initiatives reported on

include the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management of the East African Community; the consultation mechanism between States members of the Economic Community of West African States to help fight cross-border trafficking of natural resources; the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network. Measures taken to improve the enforcement of existing legislation include enhancing surveillance capacity; developing integrated electronic information systems for tracking the movement of timber (e.g., in Brazil and Guatemala); strengthening the capacity of government regulatory agencies and improving the coordination between forest services and the police, military and customs officers at all levels; and training prosecuting lawyers and judges.

17. A majority of countries use criteria and indicators to assess progress towards sustainable forest management, or are currently working on the development, piloting and implementation of criteria and indicators. Approaches include a national set of criteria and indicators (in 42 countries), a regional and/or international set (in 39 countries), and other criteria and indicators (in 13 countries). These criteria and indicators are used to generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management (in 56 countries), for monitoring and assessment (in 53 countries), for reporting to regional and international organizations (in 46 countries), to review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management (in 40 countries) and to communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders (in 37 countries).

18. The instrument has been translated into languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations in the following countries: Afghanistan (into Dari and Pashto), Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, the Comoros, Finland, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Serbia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka (into Sinhala), Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania and Turkey.

B. Global objective 1: reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation

19. According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010, prepared by FAO, during the period between 2000 and 2010 an average of around 13 million ha of forest per year were converted to other uses, largely agriculture, or lost through natural causes. The net loss of forest area (after allowing for afforestation) was estimated at 5.2 million ha per year.

20. The forest area of the 81 countries that submitted reports for the eleventh session of the Forum is approximately 2.9 billion ha, which constitutes slightly more than 72 per cent of global forest cover. The aggregate data for those reporting countries show a slight positive trend in achieving objective 1, since there was a 0.4 per cent increase in forest cover between 2000 and 2010, according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010.

21. Over three quarters of reporting countries stated that their government's national forest policy and/or strategy or national forest programme contains time-

bound and quantified targets related to the forest area. To reverse the loss of forest cover and to enhance the area and quality of forests, many countries have undertaken afforestation, reforestation and restoration programmes. The areas covered since 2007, on the basis of figures provided by 60 countries, are illustrated in table 1.

Table 1
Afforestation, reforestation and restoration since 2007

Programme	*Hectares (millions)*
Afforestation	44
Reforestation	21
Restoration	10

22. Measures for achieving these programmes include enforcement of existing legislation (in 59 countries); new legislation and/or action aimed at the conservation and protection of forests (in 41 countries); new legislation and/or action aimed at reducing deforestation and/or supporting afforestation/reforestation (in 36 countries); subsidies for forest protection (in 33 countries); subsidies for management plans (in 22 countries); reduced and/or deferred taxes for forest land (in 15 countries); and low-interest loans for forest activities and/or management (in 14 countries). Further implementation mechanisms reported by countries include those relating to REDD-plus and other schemes that make use of carbon finance; community forestry programmes, including transferring rights for the management and use of forests to local communities, community-owned woodlots and community-based agroforestry demonstration plots; as well as awareness-raising campaigns and associated tree-planting initiatives.

23. Countries also reported on the scale and nature of work to reverse the loss of forest cover. For example, following large-scale afforestation in China, the forest area increased by 13 million ha between 2009 and 2013. The implementation by Brazil of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon has resulted in a continuous decrease of the annual deforestation rate in the Amazon, from 1.29 million ha in 2008 to 0.48 million ha in 2014. Tree-planting initiatives include an initiative to plant 50 million trees in Ontario, Canada; a programme in Lebanon to plant 40 million forest trees in public lands within the next 20 years; Malaysia's campaign to plant 26 million trees, with the theme "Greening the Earth: One Citizen, One Tree"; and tree-planting campaigns in the United Republic of Tanzania coordinated by the Office of the Vice-President, with an annual target of 136 million seedlings per year. While the United States does not face issues of deforestation, around 7.5 million ha of public and private forest lands have been restored or enhanced between 2011 and 2014. Mauritania's programmes for national aerial seeding and reforestation are contributing to the "Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel" initiative (in which other partners include Ethiopia, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal). In Côte d'Ivoire, there is a state-funded "Five hectare school forest" project, also aimed at promoting environmental education, while in the Niger there is a "One village, one forest" programme. Farmers in Grenada receive tree seedlings at subsidized prices from a state-owned nursery, which also provides trees for schools and non-governmental organizations.

Similarly, in the State of Palestine, the private sector is provided with free seedlings and technical support.

24. Despite the substantial efforts to reverse the loss of forest cover, as reported by countries, globally the progress towards achieving objective 1 has been slow. As major drivers of deforestation lie outside the forest sector, the forest community alone cannot achieve the objective and a cross-sectoral approach is needed to address the issue at a broader level, taking into account different land uses.

C. Global objective 2: enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

25. Forests contribute to solutions for many development challenges, including poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, food security, energy, clean water and watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and combating desertification or land degradation.

26. However, the full contribution of forests to society and sustainable development is often underestimated owing to a lack of socioeconomic data, as many of the benefits and services provided by forests are not measured or valued in quantifiable terms.

27. The *State of the World's Forests 2014* sought to address this data gap. Some of its key findings were that:

(a) The number of people using forest outputs to meet their needs for food, energy and shelter is in the billions. Furthermore, large numbers may benefit indirectly from the environmental services provided by forests;

(b) The formal forest sector employs some 13.2 million people across the world and at least another 41 million are employed in the informal sector. Informal employment in forestry is often not captured in national statistics, but estimates suggest that it is significant in less developed regions;

(c) Some 840 million people, or 12 per cent of the world's population, collect fuelwood and charcoal for their own use;

(d) The provision of wood fuel from forests for cooking and sterilizing water is a major contributor to food security and health; an estimated 2.4 billion people (or about 40 per cent of the population of less developed countries) cook with wood fuel;

(e) The collection of edible non-wood forest products also supports food security and provides essential nutrients for many people;

(f) Forest products make a significant contribution to the shelter of at least 1.3 billion people, or 18 per cent of the world's population. The recorded number of people living in homes where forest products are the main materials used for walls, roofs or floors is about 1 billion in Asia and Oceania and 150 million in Africa; this estimate is based on partial information, the true number could be much higher.

28. In their reports for the eleventh session of the Forum, 56 countries gave examples of how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests. Several African countries, including Angola,

Botswana, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, gave examples of local communities being entitled to benefit from forest and wildlife resources in community lands.

29. In Papua New Guinea, nearly 97 per cent of land is customarily owned by clans and tribal groups and in Samoa 80 per cent of land is owned by the Samoan people. The traditional use of forest resources by indigenous and local communities is recognized by forestry law in Cambodia. In Myanmar, local communities benefit from forest goods and services under the community forestry programme. Joint Forest Management in India has institutionalized the involvement of local communities in the management of forests. Nepal's community-based management regimes give local communities and indigenous people rights over the benefits generated by goods and/or services derived from forests, based on management plans and a range of benefit-sharing arrangements.

30. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Constitution recognizes and protects the community land belonging to indigenous peoples and gives indigenous communities located in forest areas exclusive rights over their use and management. A support programme for environmental conservation in Brazil (*Bolsa Verde*) offers thousands of forest-dependent families living in extreme poverty financial benefits in return for maintaining vegetation cover and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Dominican Republic has passed 14,000 ha of state-owned land on to communities, subject to management in accordance with agreed forest management plans.

31. In Albania, Armenia and Iran (Islamic Republic of), local communities can use forests to meet their needs for firewood, construction materials and grazing cattle; in Cyprus, an agreement between the local community council and the Department of Forests sets out the rights and obligations of each partner and requires a management plan; local people in Jordan are allowed to collect fallen branches, fruits and mushrooms and can use 1,000 m^2 of forest land for beekeeping and to cultivate ornamental and medicinal plants or mushrooms.

32. Within Europe, Croatia, Finland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine reported on the concept of "everyman's right" as regards access to forests for purposes of recreation, often including the right to collect wood and non-wood products.

33. As reported by many countries, progress has been made towards objective 2. It is evident that recognition of the importance of the social and environmental benefits of forests is increasing and is reflected in national policies and international forest-related initiatives and dialogues on forests. However, owing to the lack of provision of qualitative information by countries, the lack of adequate indicators and the anecdotal nature of some of the data, it is difficult to measure progress towards objective 2. Further work is necessary to ensure relevant indicators are identified and qualitative data are obtained from various sources in regard to this objective.

D. Global objective 3: increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

34. The area of forests within protected areas systems (including national parks, game reserves, wilderness areas and other legally established protected areas) in 2010 was around 460 million ha worldwide (or 12.5 per cent of the global forest area). This had increased by 95 million ha between 1990 and 2010, according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010.

35. In reporting for the eleventh session of the Forum, many countries described actions that resulted in an increase of forests in protected areas. These included the Dominican Republic, where there are now 123 sites, occupying 25 per cent of the land area; Finland, where the area of protected forest rose from 3.86 million ha in 2005 to 3.93 million ha in 2014 (representing 12.9 per cent of the total land area); Gabon, which has 4 million ha in protected areas, including 11 per cent established as national parks; Grenada, which has approval to create a new protected area on a significant amount of state-owned forest; Madagascar, where there are 53 legally constituted protected areas (and 96 with temporary protection); Malaysia, where the Heart of Borneo and Central Forest Spine initiatives provide important ecological corridors to connect fragmented forests; Mexico, which has five new terrestrial protected areas, covering over 1 million ha and with 93.6 per cent forest cover; Myanmar, where there has been a reforestation programme in the watershed areas, restoration of mangrove ecosystems and expansion of protected areas; Nepal, where the area under strict protection has significantly increased over the past five years and where protected forests, managed with the participation of local communities, have been established across the country; Papua New Guinea, where the first protected area covers more than 78,000 ha of tropical rainforest; Romania, where the forest area within protected areas increased from 0.91 million ha in 2005 to 2.61 million ha in 2014; and Serbia, where the protected forests area has increased by 40 per cent in the past 20 years.

36. One indicator of the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is the area of forest that has been certified. In November 2014, the total area certified under the Forest Stewardship Council was 183.1 million ha, up 10 per cent since 2012, while the area certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification was 264 million ha, up 11 per cent since 2012.[4] The number of certificates relating to chain of custody was 28,248 (Forest Stewardship Council), up 16 per cent since 2012, and 10,374 (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification), up 9 per cent since 2012. This suggests an increase in the potential availability of forest products from sustainably managed forests. In its report for the eleventh session of the Forum, the Congo gave an example of a logging company that has been awarded certification by the Forest Stewardship Council in four forest concessions, covering more than 1 million ha and employing over 1,500 people, and Panama referred to the sustainable management of indigenous forests (including

[4] There is some double-counting between figures reported by the Forest Stewardship Council and by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, informally estimated at 10 per cent, in information provided for the report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement.

certification of 36,000 ha by the Forest Stewardship Council) that has also created community forest enterprises, adding that this approach to sustainable forest management may be expanded to over 200,000 ha. While the report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement[1] noted that most of the certified forest area is in temperate and boreal forests, and not in the tropics, where the greatest needs arise for sustainably managing natural forests, the International Tropical Timber Organization has reported on increasing interest in the certification of tropical forests both at the level of government and within the private sector (see the Status of Tropical Forest Management 2011).

37. Several country reports for the eleventh session of the Forum highlighted public procurement policies which specify that forest products should only come from sustainably managed forests, pointing out that, in contrast to the European Union timber regulation, this requires timber and timber-related products to come from legal and sustainable sources. For example, public procurement policy in New Zealand requires that all timber and timber products purchased by government departments are certified for legality and encourages their being certified for sustainability. In Mexico, the regulatory framework related to public procurement has been modified to promote the use of forest products from certified forests; and the Timber Procurement Policy in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requires all central government departments to procure sustainable and legal timber, or timber with a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade licence.

38. The sharp increase in certification, the increased area of forests in protected areas and the growing area under management plans demonstrate the progress towards attaining objective 3. These three elements constitute useful proxies to assess sustainable forest management. However, it should be noted that there is still a lack of agreement on methodology to assess the area of forests under sustainable forest management.

E. Global objective 4: reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management

39. The report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement stated that official development assistance (ODA) forms the core of international public sector finance, noting that bilateral funds depend heavily on donor policies, while multilateral funding, which is smaller than bilateral funding, is more demand-driven. The report on the independent assessment drew upon the 2012 report on forest financing of the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in which trends in ODA were discussed (see table 2).

Table 2
External financial flows to forestry: disbursements of official development assistance
(Millions of United States dollars at 2010 rates)

Source	*2002-2004*	*2005-2007*	*2008-2010*	*Change (percentage) 2002-2004-2008-2010*	*Trend*
Bilateral	324.4	397.1	704.8	117	Increasing
Multilateral	233.9	337.0	555.9	138	Increasing
Total	**558.3**	**734.1**	**1 260.7**	**126**	**Increasing**

40. The report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement provided more recent figures on bilateral ODA, namely $633.7 million (2008), $515.8 million (2009), $827.6 million (2010), $1,458.8 million (2011) and $1,243.8 million (2012). The report also highlighted that, for example, in 2010 funding for activities relating to REDD-plus accounted for 40.6 per cent of the total funds directed to forests. It concluded that some progress has been made towards meeting objective 4 in relation to ODA, but also pointed out gaps in data on forest financing and forest-related ODA.

41. In reporting for the eleventh session of the Forum, many countries gave examples of increases in ODA for sustainable forest management. Among donor countries, Canada supported 128 projects between 2007 and 2014 that had at least some forestry component. Finland's annual ODA for activities relating to sustainable forest management has increased, from approximately $20 million in 2007 to about $40 million in 2013. Japan provided $250 million in ODA for the forest sector in 2012. The budget of the International Climate and Forest Initiative of the Government of Norway, which promises results-based finance to tropical developing countries that can reduce carbon emissions, is approximately $500 million per year. The United States invests approximately $250 million to $300 million a year in forest-related foreign assistance and cooperation. The United Kingdom reported on the International Climate Fund, which provides £3.87 billion of ODA from 2011 to 2016 to reduce poverty by assisting developing countries, in adapting to climate change, to take up low-carbon growth and reduce deforestation. Several developing countries and countries with economies in transition also gave examples of the role of ODA. For example, the Congo provided details of a World Bank forest and economic diversification project; Georgia referred to agreements on cooperation with Austria and Germany; Ghana highlighted support from the European Union and the World Bank; Kenya reported an increase in ODA for forests; Morocco mobilized funding from the European Union; Papua New Guinea received support from Japan and benefited from activities under the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, supported by FAO, on assisting the Forest Authority to implement a multi-purpose national forest inventory; and Samoa outlined ODA from Australia and Japan.

42. Over one third of countries reporting for the eleventh session of the Forum had mobilized increased public international funding since 2007 (28 out of 75) and nearly two thirds had mobilized increased financial resources for the

implementation of sustainable forest management through domestic public funding (49 out of 75). Examples include the creation of a national fund for the protection of the native forest in Argentina, increased financial allocations in Bangladesh; the scaling-up of investment in forestry development in China; a reforestation plan in the Dominican Republic; more public funds for forest management, reforestation, forest guards and firefighting in Lebanon; funding for reforestation of degraded areas in Liberia; a 41.7 per cent increase between 2007 and 2014 in the federal budget for the National Forestry Commission of Mexico; a significant improvement in the annual budget for the forestry sector in Morocco; increased domestic public funding for the forestry sector in Nepal, rising from $23.2 million in 2007 to $76.6 million in 2014; a priority investment plan, which includes sustainable forest management in the Niger; an increased budget for forests in Panama; more funds for afforestation, using treated wastewater, forest rehabilitation, reforestation, forest guarding and forest recreation and tourism in Saudi Arabia.

43. Only nine countries reported increased domestic private funding and only five reported increased external private funding. In order to encourage private sector investment, since 2007, most countries used a mix of approaches, including policy and legal reforms (41 out of 75); outreach to the private sector (36 out of 75); improved infrastructure and other public services related to sustainable forest management (35 out of 75); financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks and employment subsidies (31 out of 75); and establishing markets for ecosystem services provided by forests (15 out of 75). In addition, reference was made to the importance of investment in the development of new wood-processing technologies (Canada); forest tenure reform (China); creating a forest investment and insurance account so that owners can insure against storm risk (France); and the use of levies to provide funding for research, development and promotion (New Zealand).

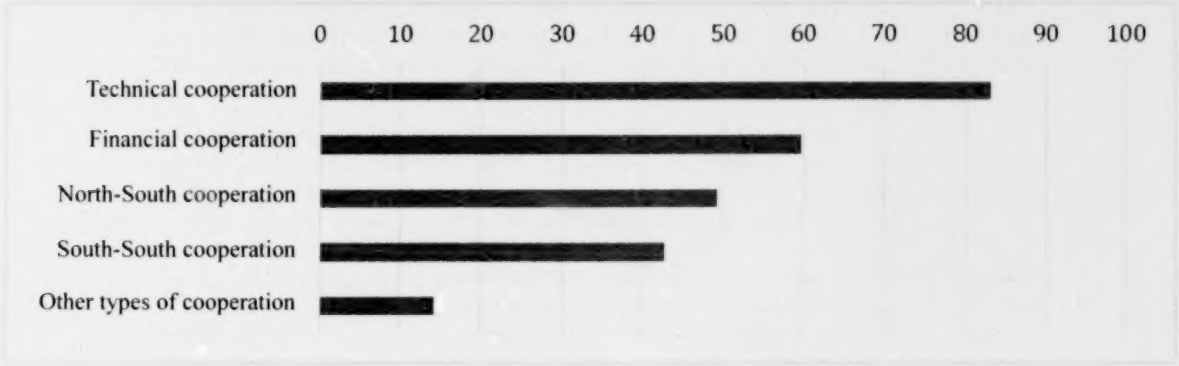
44. A total of 36 countries established payments for ecosystem services and several others are considering the matter. These included payments for nature conservation (23 countries), watershed protection and/or supply (18 countries) and carbon storage (14 countries). A number of other environmental services were also identified by countries. For example, in Côte d'Ivoire, the Government signed a partnership agreement in 2008 with a private company for the management of four forests (totalling 41,000 ha) for a $12 million investment in ecotourism; and in Japan, many regional prefectures impose a forest environment tax, which provides funds to improve forests for such functions as landslide prevention, soil and water conservation and carbon storage. Costa Rica reported on its national programme of payments for ecosystem services, whose primary source of funding is a tax on fuels. In Viet Nam, payment for forest environmental services has been applied nationwide since 2011, contributing to sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement for over 230,000 households and environment protection; this has mobilized about $160 million, most of which is used to fund forest protection and development.

45. Over three quarters of responding countries said that since 2007 they have developed or updated financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the instrument; most of those strategies have time frames spanning between 2 and 5 years or between 5 and 10 years. Nevertheless, funding for sustainable forest management remains a major challenge and many reports highlighted the impact of the global economic and financial crisis and the lack of political commitment to forests and sustainable forest management when decisions are taken about public funding.

F. Providing a framework for international cooperation

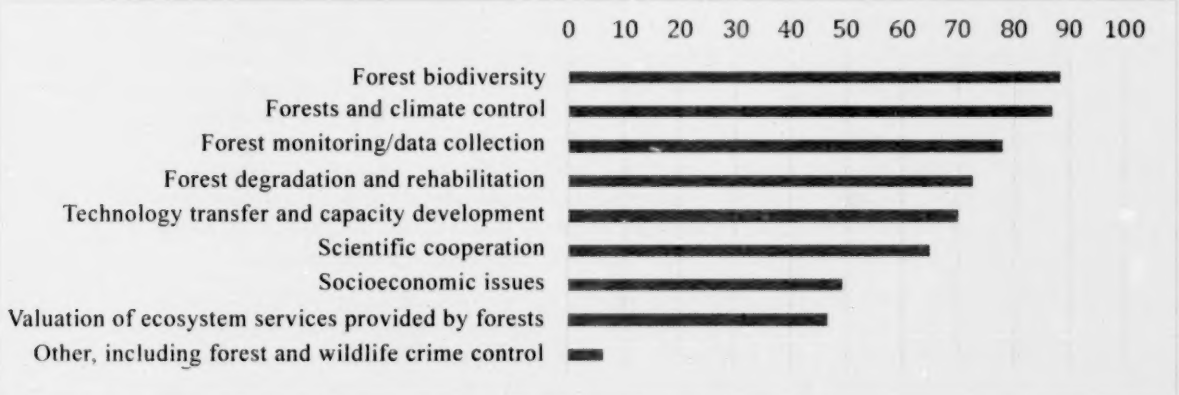
46. Part of the purpose of the instrument is to provide a framework for international cooperation. Nearly all countries responding about this in their reports for the eleventh session of the Forum said that their government is engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management (see figure I).

Figure I
Countries engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management
(Percentage)



47. The areas of cooperation reported mostly included forest biodiversity (88 per cent of countries that reported for the eleventh session of the Forum), forests and climate change (87 per cent of countries) and cooperation with regard to monitoring and data collection (77 per cent of countries) (see figure II).

Figure II
Specific areas of cooperation
(Percentage)



48. In addition to reporting on ODA, many countries highlighted multilateral programmes, including those relating to REDD-plus, the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade programme of the European Union, the Congo Basin Forest

Partnership, the Central African Forests Commission, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, cooperation through processes such as Forest Europe and the Montreal Process, as well as funding from the Global Environment Facility to help meet obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio Conventions).

IV. Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

49. The purpose of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests includes enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

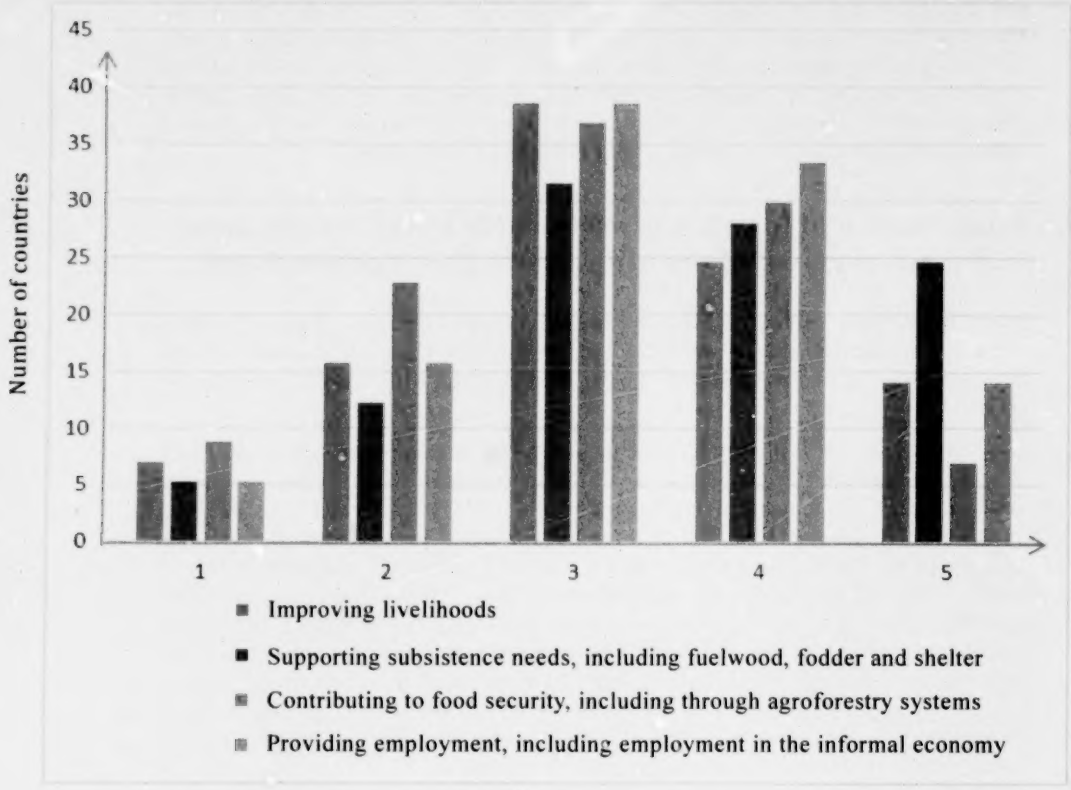
50. Forests are not explicitly referred to in any goal or target within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. One indicator under Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) recognizes the role of forests in ensuring environmental sustainability. National reports submitted for the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Forum demonstrated that forests and sustainable forest management have contributed to progress towards achieving Goal 7 and other Goals, including especially Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and Goal 8 (develop a global partnership for development). The responses also highlighted the linkages between the Goals and the instrument, with its global objectives on forests, across a wide range of issues related to livelihoods, poverty alleviation, employment, food, energy and water security, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development.

A. Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

51. Among responding countries, 80 per cent recognized the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to the eradication of poverty and hunger. Many provided examples of benefits from forests to the rural communities living on the fringes of forests, noting that the forest sector is often the only source of employment (formal and informal) in these generally remote areas. Non-timber forest products are also important in promoting the local economy and providing local employment. These benefits were particularly highlighted by developing countries, including Brazil, China, the Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Liberia, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, several developed countries, such as Croatia, Cyprus, Japan, Lithuania, Portugal and Serbia, referred to the rural employment opportunities created by forests.

52. Countries were asked to indicate, on a scale from 1 to 5 (with 1 being the lowest value and 5 the highest), the value of the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the case of Goal 1, most countries selected values between 3 and 4, as seen in figure III.

Figure III
Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to progress in achieving Goal 1



53. Countries highlighted the cross-sectoral connections between the sustainability of natural resources and the eradication of poverty and hunger. Reference was made to the support given to agroforestry systems and the enhancement of food security among rural communities in Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nepal and Samoa. Roads and social infrastructure systems (e.g., clinics, health-care facilities and schools) supported by forest companies were also mentioned. In addition, some countries (e.g., Croatia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia) mentioned the role of forests in the ecotourism industry.

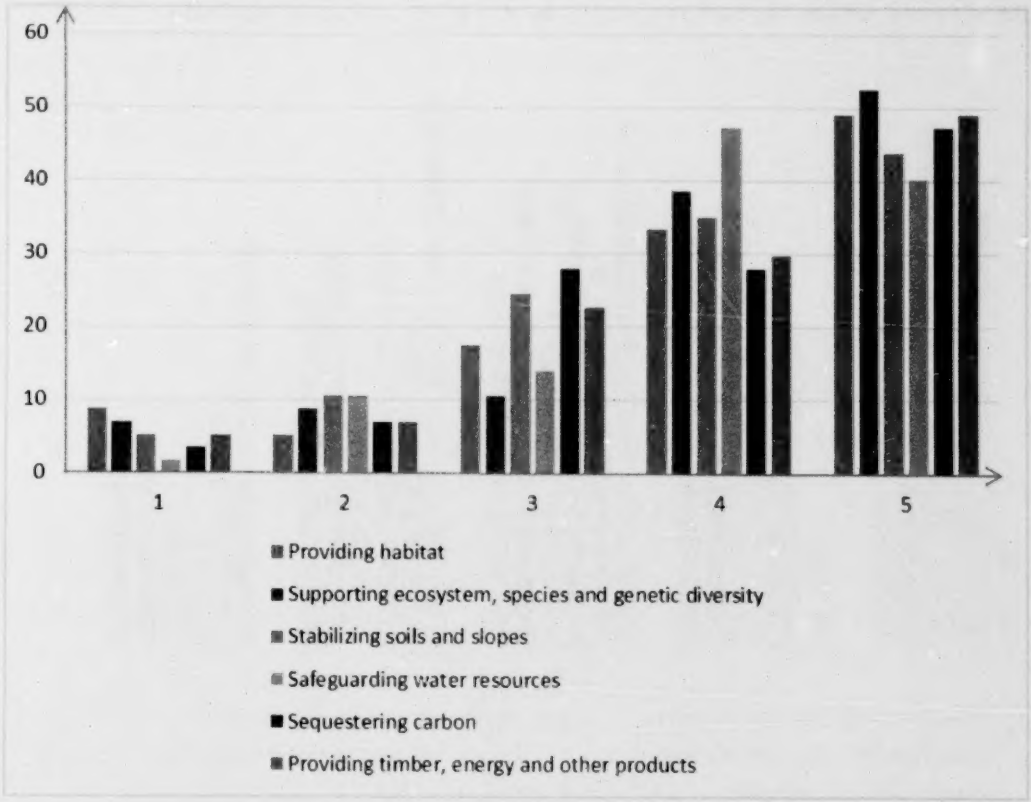
54. There is a direct connection between objective 2 and Goal 1. Forests frequently feature in government initiatives to promote rural empowerment and poverty eradication. Some countries have revised their national poverty eradication plans and strategies in order to incorporate elements of sustainable forest management that provide socioeconomic benefits to rural communities. As reported by countries and indicated earlier in the present report, issues of tenure and rights and access to forest products are critical for improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. Furthermore, the difficulty of measuring the contribution of forests to poverty eradication and the lack of understanding of that potential contribution leads to insufficient allocation of funding and development assistance for sustainable forest management.

B. Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

55. Forests are crucial for global environmental sustainability, through, for example, their role in climate change mitigation and in the conservation of biodiversity, soil and water resources. This was reflected in the national reports, with 90 per cent of countries reporting on the contribution of forests to progress in achieving Goal 7. In addition to highlighting the ecosystem services of forests, countries reported on their efforts to combat deforestation and increase the areas of both protective and protected forests.

56. On a scale from 1 to 5, most countries selected the highest values, confirming the importance of forests to environmental sustainability (see figure IV).

Figure IV
Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to progress in achieving Goal 7

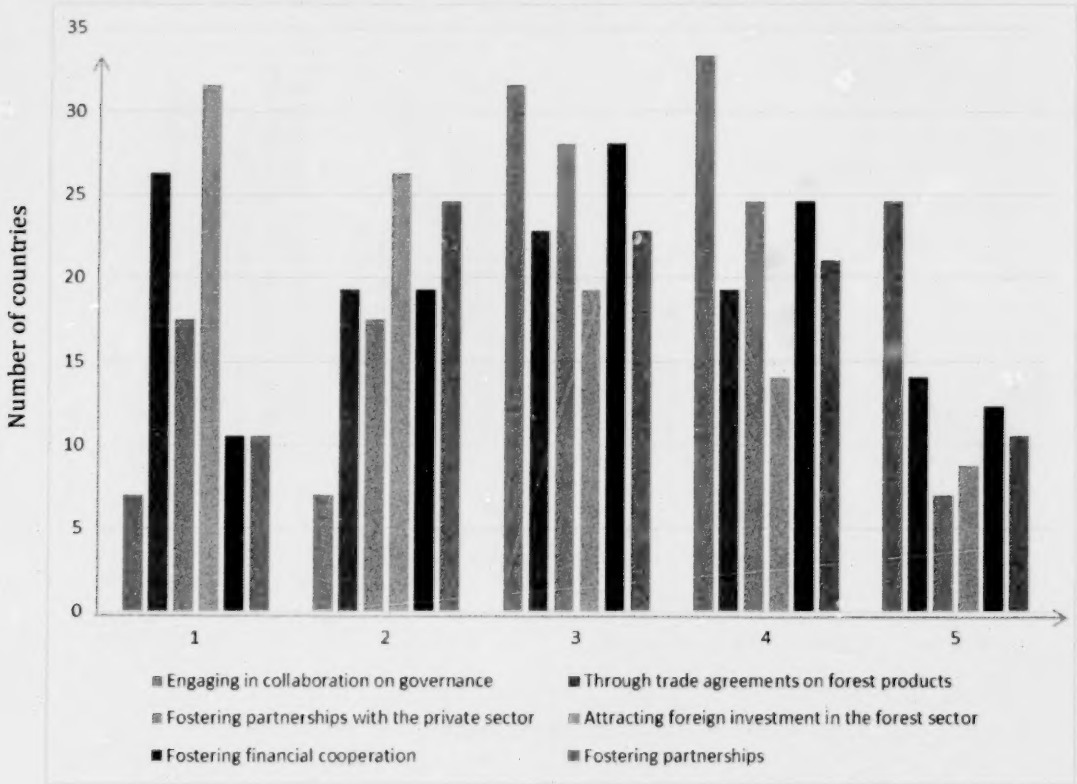


57. There are many links between Goal 7, the instrument and the global objectives on forests. Actions reported by countries, especially these related to achieving objectives 1 and 3, confirmed these links. In addition, the reports demonstrated the role of sustainable forest management in maintaining and enhancing the protective functions of forests.

C. Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

58. Around 80 per cent of countries reported on the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to Goal 8. In addition to mentioning their active participation in relevant international forums, such as the Rio Conventions, activities relating to REDD-plus and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), many reported cooperation on issues related to tackling trade in illegally harvested forest products. When they were asked to indicate, on a scale from 1 to 5, to what extent forests and/or sustainable forest management had contributed to developing a global partnership for development, they highlighted the importance of collaboration on improved governance, as regards forests; by contrast, attracting foreign investment in the forest sector was ranked very low (see figure V).

Figure V
Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to progress in achieving Goal 8

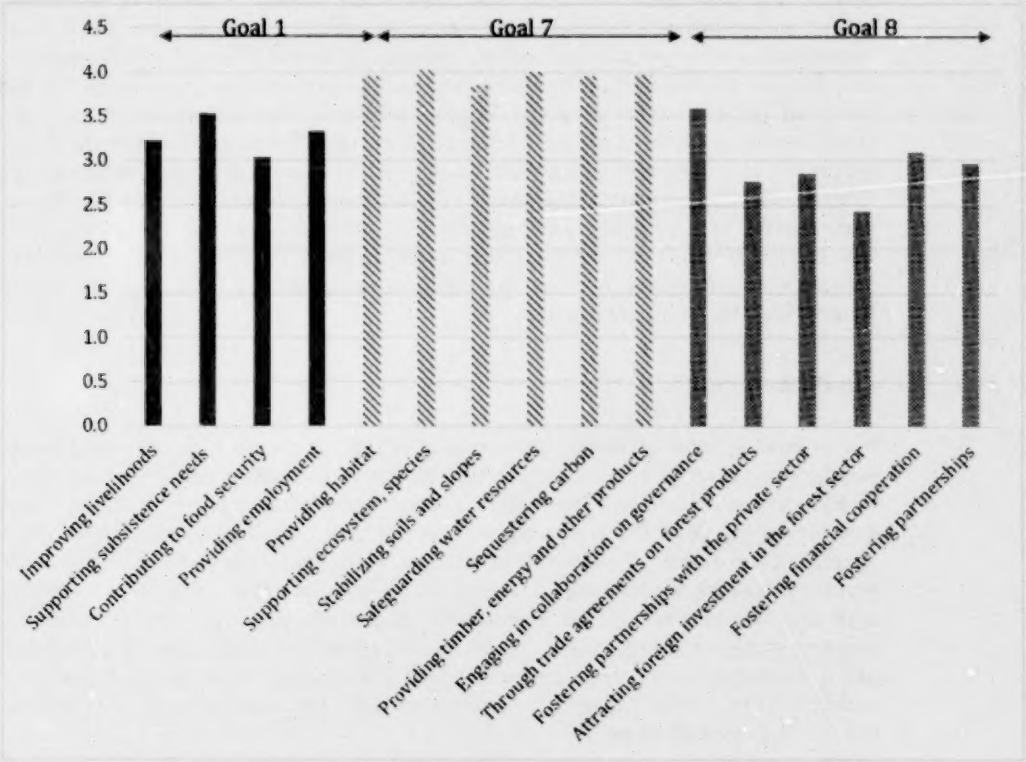


59. Overall, the responses confirmed that collaboration on forests contributes to a global partnership for development. As noted in relation to official development assistance, and in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the present report, there is a strong link between securing effective international cooperation and implementing the instrument. The principles of the instrument recognize the crucial role of international

cooperation, including financial support to achieve sustainable forest management, as well as other means, such as scientific and technological cooperation.

Figure VI

Average, overall rating, on a scale from 1 to 5, of the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to Goals 1, 7 and 8



60. In addition, countries reported on the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to progress in the achievement of the remaining Goals.

D. Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

61. Examples of support for universal primary education include the contribution of forest companies towards universal primary education in forest areas, through, for example, building and/or furnishing schools, facilitating access to schools and providing housing for teachers. In South Africa, private sector organizations have also provided community libraries, while Liberia, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe referred to examples of contractual agreements with investors for the provision of social services, including education. In addition, participatory forest management programmes in Nepal have contributed to the achievement of Goal 2 by assisting the rural population in conducting non-formal education. Ghana and Kenya both noted that improved incomes from forests for parents living in forest areas helped create opportunities for more school-age children to be enrolled in school.

E. Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

62. Countries provided examples of how the forest sector empowers women through training opportunities and equal employment, as well as enhanced gender equality in management and decision-making processes. Community forestry guidelines in Nepal require 50 per cent participation by women in decision-making bodies, and such guidelines have also empowered women in Malaysia, especially among indigenous people and local communities. In Liberia, women are given equal opportunities to be represented on the community forest development committees and to serve as mediators between the contract holders and the communities at the fringe of the concession areas. In Kenya, there is a requirement for 30 per cent representation of women on the boards of forest institutions, in employment in the sector and in community forest associations and forest conservation committees. In Ghana, the Community Investment Fund has supported women in forest communities by promoting income-generating ventures. The Dominican Republic has created a fund for women forest users, helping them to produce food for subsistence and herbs and in the small-scale gathering and sale of forest by-products, including fuelwood.

F. Goals 4, 5 and 6

63. Countries emphasized the contribution of forests, specifically non-wood forest products as sources of protein and contributors to healthy and balanced diets. Ghana, Kenya, the Niger, Papua New Guinea and Samoa reported that for many forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities, the forest constituted their source of medicine. Traditional herbs and medicinal plants from forests are regularly used for maternal health and to reduce child mortality. The forest industry, with the collaboration of the Department of Health, provides mobile clinics to forestry workers in South Africa, where about 28 million people also use traditional plants as medicine. In Ghana, awareness-raising and sensitization programmes were undertaken in forest fringe communities to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

V. Conclusions

A. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

64. The national reports demonstrated an increase in activities undertaken by countries since 2007 towards sustainable forest management, signifying that the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests covers a broad range of aspects of sustainable forest management. Although the relationship between the instrument and national actions is not always clear and stated, the actions reported by countries contribute to sustainable forest management and are fully aligned with the provisions of the instrument.

65. In order for the instrument to continue to provide a comprehensive framework of actions on sustainable forest management, Member States may wish to update the instrument to reflect the most important developments since its adoption in 2007. These may include the updating of references to the Millennium Development

Goals, subsequent to the conclusion of the discussions on sustainable development goals, extending the time frame for the achievement of the global objectives on forests from 2015 to 2030 and integrating the objectives and the proposed sustainable development goals.

66. Many international forest-related initiatives and programmes have been developed since 2007 and are reflected in the country reports submitted to the Forum. The initiatives focus on different and specific aspects of forests, such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration or trade in forest products. The instrument is still the only global agreement promoting sustainable forest management and it provides a coherent and overarching framework for forest-related initiatives, as reported by some countries. Its potential, however, has not been fully realized.

67. Articles 6 and 7 of the instrument are at the core of its purpose and cover the entire spectrum of sustainable forest management. Countries reported progress and provided examples of new and/or amended policies and strategies for sustainable forest management, mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation and public participation and strengthened efforts to combat illegal logging and/or establish new protected forest areas.

68. Newly adopted or amended policies are not always fully effective and their implementation at the ground level is often lagging behind. One aspect which has experienced relatively little progress since 2007 is the recognition of value derived from the goods and services provided by forests and their reflection in the marketplace. Some countries reported the establishment of systems and/or mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services provided by forests; however, these seem to be, for the most part, either pilot projects or local arrangements.

69. It should be noted that over the past eight years some limited financial support was available for developing countries to implement the instrument. The pilot projects conducted by FAO with support from the Governments of Germany and Japan were successful and proved that the instrument works well as an overarching forest policy framework against which countries measured the extent to which their own policies and programmes covered the key elements and requirements for achieving sustainable forest management.

B. Global objectives on forests

70. Countries reported on a wide range of actions taken since 2007 to help achieve objective 1. Nevertheless, the figures from the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010 demonstrated the high rate of conversion of natural forest land to other land uses, which is partially offset by afforestation efforts and an increase of forest plantations. Deforestation, although occurring at a slower rate, continues and progress towards objective 1 is slow. While the forest community can take action to maintain healthy forests and report on the state of existing forests, forest policymakers often have little influence over broader land use planning at the country level and on the conversion of forest land to other land uses. In the country submissions on the review of the international arrangement on forests, among those countries that expressed a view, 42 per cent (15 of 36 countries) considered progress towards objective 1 to be adequate, while 58 per cent (21 of 36) considered progress on that objective to be inadequate; a further nine countries were unsure or gave no explicit response to the question.

71. While the information from the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010, the *State of the World's Forests 2014* and reports to the Forum show that there is recognition of the role of forests in enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people, there is mixed evidence about the extent to which progress has been made towards objective 2 since 2007. As stressed in the *State of the World's Forests 2014*, there is only imprecise quantitative information about the level of benefits, so assessing trends is problematic. Nevertheless, many countries have given examples to demonstrate action aimed at enhancing such benefits, including the shift towards a more participatory approach in forest management and giving more responsibility to communities for the management of forest resources. In the country submissions to the review of the international arrangement, among those countries that expressed a view, 38 per cent (13 of 34 countries) considered progress towards objective 2 to be adequate, while 62 per cent (21 of 34) considered progress on that objective to be inadequate; a further 11 countries were unsure or gave no explicit response to the question. This is consistent with the fact that, while the country reports for the eleventh session of the Forum include many examples of action, it is difficult to quantify such changes.

72. Although updated information from the Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2015 is awaited, trends in progress towards objective 3 appear to be positive. This is reflected in the country submissions on the review of the international arrangement: among those countries that expressed a view, 59 per cent (17 of 29 countries) considered progress on objective 3 to be adequate, while 41 per cent (12 of 29) considered progress on that objective to be inadequate; a further 16 countries were unsure or gave no explicit response to the question. The report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement also concluded that there had been progress towards the achievement of objective 3, although the goal is far from being achieved. Notwithstanding the progress that is being made towards the objective, important challenges remain, including the availability of data about sustainably managed forests. The increasing coverage of certification schemes is a useful proxy indicator, but does not directly measure the proportion of forest products that comes from sustainably managed forests or assess sustainable forest management as such. Further work is required both to assess the current position and to identify mechanisms for increasing the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

73. There is a clear consensus, among the countries that provided views and proposals on the review of the international arrangement, that progress towards objective 4 is inadequate. Of those countries that expressed a view in their submissions on the review of the international arrangement, 24 per cent (8 of 33 countries) considered progress on objective 4 to be adequate, while 76 per cent (25 of 33) considered progress on that objective to be inadequate; a further 12 countries were unsure or gave no explicit response to the question. In suggesting how to improve on that progress, many of the countries emphasized the importance of adequate and sustainable funding; proposals included the creation of a global forest fund exclusively for the forestry sector; establishing a results-based fund for sustainable forest management; and generating additional sources of funding through payments for ecosystem services. While the trends in ODA are positive, this has been heavily influenced by initiatives relating to REDD-plus and there are significant thematic and geographic gaps as regards funding for sustainable forest

management. As concluded in the report on the independent assessment of the international arrangement, there is a large gap between forest financing needs and current financing flows for sustainable forest management at all levels. An important element would be the creation of a strategic trust fund for strengthening capacity to support the implementation of the instrument.

C. Millennium Development Goals

74. Information reported by countries provided further evidence that forests and sustainable forest management have made a significant contribution to progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and countries highly value this contribution. Moreover, the reported actions demonstrated direct connections between the provisions of the instrument, the global objectives on forests and the Goals. While the links are clear to those in the forest community, the message has not been successfully communicated to high-level policymakers in other sectors.

75. Issues relating to forests are being taken seriously in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. It is likely that, in September 2015, a set of sustainable development goals will be adopted as a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals. The current proposal for the sustainable development goals, as outlined in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see A/68/970 and Corr.1), explicitly mentions forests under goals 6 and 15. Although the references to the environmental functions of forests are important and valuable, it is unfortunate that the proposed goals do not reflect the full range of socioeconomic benefits and services that forests provide.

76. Lessons should be learned from the monitoring and assessment of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, it is important to develop a set of indicators that will demonstrate the full contribution of forests across the entire framework of sustainable development goals, including to livelihoods, poverty, food security and employment, as well as environmental benefits.

D. Key challenges in implementing sustainable forest management

77. While the challenges reported in implementing sustainable forest management varied, many responses reiterated the lack of adequate and sustainable financing and the consequences thereof for institutional capacity, as well as implementation on the ground. The lack of financing was linked to concern that sustainable forest management has inadequate priority when compared with other government priorities and that this reflects undervaluation of the economic, social and environmental benefits from forest resources. Some countries highlighted the growing pressure on forests resulting, for example, from population increase and a high dependence on forest resources as a means of livelihood, leading to encroachment, overgrazing and overexploitation of forest resources. They also stressed the challenge of dealing with unclear land tenure regimes, with some saying that deforestation rates are lower where communities have formal rights over their forests. Other pressures include demand for the conversion of forest land to other uses, such as plantations, agriculture, mining and urban development, as well as the pressures resulting from drought, desertification and climate change. In the face of

such pressures, many countries (especially from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions) described the consequences of inadequate funding for forest governance institutions, which would result in a lack of trained, professional staff able to effectively monitor compliance with forest laws and regulations, to engage sufficiently with stakeholders, to undertake inventory work and to address management problems such as fire, pests and diseases.

E. Monitoring, reporting and assessment

78. As stated above, there has been some progress towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and on achieving the global objectives on forests. However, without clear benchmarks, assessment methodology and quantitative targets, it is difficult to gauge the exact extent of that progress.

79. There are still substantial information gaps in assessing forest degradation (objective 1), in measuring the socioeconomic benefits of forests (objective 2), in quantifying the volume and value of products from sustainably managed forests (objective 3) and in securing comprehensive information on financing for sustainable forest management (objective 4).

80. As a final consideration, it should be noted once more that the present report draws largely upon the information supplied by 81 countries in their voluntary national reports. There are, therefore, gaps in data regarding the countries that did not submit reports.

Annex

Member States that provided national reports on progress towards achieving the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests for the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions of the Forum

	Eighth session	*Ninth session*	*Tenth session*	*Eleventh session*
Afghanistan	–	–	X	X
Albania	–	–	X	X
Angola	–	–	–	X
Argentina	X	–	X	X
Armenia	–	–	X	X
Australia	–	–	X	–
Austria	–	–	X	X
Azerbaijan	–	–	–	X
Bangladesh	–	X	X	X
Belarus	–	–	–	X
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	–	–	–	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	–	X
Botswana	–	–	–	X
Brazil	X	X	X	X
Bulgaria	X	–	–	–
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	X
Cambodia	–	–	–	X
Cameroon	–	X	–	–
Canada	–	X	X	X
China	–	X	X	X
Comoros	–	–	–	X
Congo	–	X	–	X
Costa Rica	–	–	X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	–	–	X	X
Croatia	–	–	–	X
Cyprus	X	X	X	X
Dominican Republic	–	–	X	X
El Salvador	X	X	–	–
Estonia	–	–	–	X
Ethiopia	–	–	–	X
Finland	X	X	X	X
France	–	–	X	X
Gabon	X	X	X	X

	Eighth session	*Ninth session*	*Tenth session*	*Eleventh session*
Georgia	–	–	–	X
Germany	–	–	X	–
Ghana	–	X	X	X
Grenada	–	–	X	X
Guatemala	–	–	–	X
Guinea	–	–	–	X
Guinea-Bissau	X	–	–	X
Guyana	–	–	X	–
India	X	–	X	X
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	X	–	X
Israel	–	–	X	–
Italy	–	–	X	–
Jamaica	–	X	X	X
Japan	X	X	X	X
Jordan	–	–	–	X
Kenya	–	–	–	X
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	–	X
Lebanon	–	–	–	X
Liberia	–	–	X	X
Lithuania	–	–	X	X
Luxembourg	X	–	–	X
Madagascar	–	–	X	X
Malaysia	–	–	X	X
Mauritania	–	–	–	X
Mauritius	–	–	–	X
Mexico	X	X	X	X
Morocco	–	–	X	X
Mozambique	–	X	X	–
Myanmar	–	–	X	X
Nepal	–	–	X	X
New Zealand	X	X	–	X
Nicaragua	–	–	X	–
Niger	–	–	X	X
Nigeria	–	–	X	X
Norway	X	–	X	X
Pakistan	–	–	–	X
Panama	–	–	X	X
Papua New Guinea	–	X	X	X
Paraguay	–	–	–	X
Peru	X	–	–	–

	Eighth session	*Ninth session*	*Tenth session*	*Eleventh session*
Philippines	X	X	X	–
Portugal	–	–	X	X
Romania	–	–	–	X
Russian Federation	–	–	–	X
Saint Lucia	–	–	X	–
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	–	–	–	X
Samoa	–	–	–	X
Saudi Arabia	–	–	X	X
Senegal	–	–	–	X
Serbia	–	–	–	X
Slovakia	X	X	X	X
South Africa	–	–	X	X
Sri Lanka	–	–	X	–
Sudan	X	–	–	–
Suriname	–	–	X	–
Switzerland	X	X	X	X
Togo	–	–	X	–
Turkey	–	–	X	–
Ukraine	–	–	X	X
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	–	–	X
United Republic of Tanzania	–	–	–	X
United States of America	X	X	X	X
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	–	–	X	–
Viet Nam	–	–	X	X
Yemen	X	–	–	X
Zimbabwe	–	–	–	X
State of Palestine	–	–	X	X
Total (100 countries)	**21**	**22**	**57**	**81**